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## GENERAL NOTES.

*Larus atricilla* at Springfield, Mass.—Yesterday I captured near Springfield a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). This fact may not be worthy of note, but not having seen or heard of one here before, I conclude it was a rare bird to find so far in the interior. The Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls are often here.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass., Oct. 2, 1887.*

The Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassogeron culminatus*) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.—During a recent visit to the Museum of Laval University,

Quebec, I was shown by the Curator, Mr. C. E. Dionne, the skin of an Albatross which, upon examination, proved to be of this species. Mr. Dionne assured me that he obtained the skin in September, 1885, from a fisherman who said he had captured the bird a few days previously in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The skin had been preserved in salt, and when it reached the Museum was soft and quite fresh. This is the first record of the occurrence of this species in the Atlantic, its usual habitat being the Indian and South Pacific Oceans.—MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, *St. John, N. B.*

**Cory's Shearwater at Newport, R. I.**—In the Auk for January, 1887, an account was given by Prof. Baird of the occurrence of great numbers of Jaegers and Cory's Shearwaters, found feeding upon the young herring, which, towards the end of September, 1886, abounded from Point Judith to Vineyard Sound. On the 30th of the same month, I received from J. Glynn, Jr., of Newport, a Shearwater which appeared to me to be *Puffinus borealis*, and Mr. Cory has since kindly confirmed the identification. This furnishes some evidence to show that the flight of these birds extended as far west as the mouth of Narragansett Bay.—WILLIAM C. RIVES, JR., M. D., *Newport, R. I.*

**The Black Duck in Chihuahua.**—In April, 1879, I was with Col. A. K. Morrow, then Major in the 9th Cavalry, and a small detachment of cavalry and Indian scouts scouting in northwestern Chihuahua, Mexico. While in camp at the Laguna Palomas, an alkali lake fed by warm springs, just inside the Mexican line, I observed, among numerous other ducks of different varieties, a flock of six or eight birds that I thought were Black Ducks. After trying in vain to get a shot with my shotgun, Colonel Morrow succeeded in killing one with a cavalry carbine. As I suspected, it turned out to be a true Black Duck; a variety I had been familiar with since my boyhood on Long Island Sound. The Laguna Palomas is in about longitude 107° 30' W. and about three miles south of the line between New and Old Mexico.—R. T. EMMET, *Ft. Niobrara, Nebraska.*

[The species here referred to is probably *Anas fulvigula*, which, so far as now known, is the form of Dusky Duck occurring in Texas and adjoining parts of Mexico.—ED.]

**Rallus longirostris crepitans breeding on the Coast of Louisiana.**—Mr. Ridgway, in his 'Manual of North American Birds,' gives the habitat of this species as the "salt water marshes of Atlantic coast, north regularly to Long Island, casually to Massachusetts."

It gives me pleasure to be able to extend its range to the Gulf coast. While at Grand Isle, which borders the Gulf of Mexico at the entrance of Barataria Bay, Louisiana, in June, 1886, I secured an old bird and two young, which, when compared with specimens of *R. l. saturatus* in the National Museum, proved not to be that variety, but the true Eastern bird, variety *crepitans*.—A. K. FISHER, M. D., *Washington, D. C.*